

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A

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SUBJECT : CODEL STOKES

1. CONGRESSMAN LOUIS STOKES AND PARTY LEFT CONAKRY AS SCHEDULED ON NOVEMBER 28 AFTER SHORT BUT HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL VISIT. HE WAS THE FIRST CONGRESSMAN TO VISIT GUINEA SINCE MAY 1970. THE HIGHLIGHT OF THE VISIT WAS A 1-1/2 HOUR MEETING WITH PRESIDENT SEKOU TOURE. STOKES ALSO MET WITH MINISTER OF THE ECONOMY AND FINANCE, ISMAEL TOURE, AND THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF PAIGC, ARISTIDES PEREIRA.

2. PRESIDENT TOURE GAVE CODEL PHILOSOPHICAL PRESENTATION ON THE POLITICAL AND MORAL BASIS OF HIS POLICIES. THE MAIN POINTS WERE FIRST OF ALL THAT GUINEA IS IN NOBODY'S POCKET BUT DECIDES WHAT POSITIONS TO TAKE ON THE BASIS OF ITS OWN INTEREST AND ITS OWN MORALITY. THUS SOME WESTERNERS ACCUSE GUINEA OF BEING CONTROLLED BY THE COMMUNISTS WHILE THE COMMUNISTS SAY THE REVERSE; THE CHINESE SAY GUINEA IS TOO PRO-RUSSIAN, AND THE RUSSIANS SAY IT IS TOO PRO-CHINESE. AS AN EXAMPLE OF THE ROLE OF MORALITY IN GUINEAN FOREIGN POLICY, TOURE MENTIONED HIS 1967 BREAK WITH ISRAEL. THIS BREAK, HE SAID, COST HIM AND GUINEA A GOOD DEAL. HE SPOKE ADMIRINGLY OF ISRAELIAN DEMOCRACY WHILE CONDEMNING THE FEUDAL GOVERNMENTS OF THE ARAB STATES AND MENTIONED HIS

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PERSONAL FRIENDSHIP WITH MRS. MEIR. AT THE OUTBREAK OF THE

6-DAY WAR GUINEA WAS RECEIVING SUBSTANTIAL USEFUL AID FROM ISRAEL BUT BROKE BECAUSE IT FELT IT WAS MORE IMPORTANT TO SUPPORT THOSE PALESTINIANS DEPRIVED OF THEIR HOMELAND BY THE ISRAELIS.

3. DURING HIS MEETING WITH STOKES, ISMAEL TOURE THANKED THE US FOR ITS FOOD AND OTHER ASSISTANCE TO GUINEA BUT REGRETTED THAT IMPORTANT THOUGH IT WAS, IT MADE NO LASTING CONTRIBUTION TO GUINEAN DEVELOPMENT. IT WOULD HAVE BEEN BETTER, TOURE SAID, HAD THE US BUILT SOME LASTING PROJECTS, SUCH AS A DAM OR ROAD, THAT WOULD HAVE SERVED AS A BASIS FOR FURTHER DEVELOPMENT. ISMAEL GAVE AMBASSADOR A COPY OF THE NEW 5-YEAR PLAN WHICH IS IN GREATLY EXPANDED FORM FROM THAT REPORTED EARLIER BY THIS EMBASSY. PLAN HAS BEEN TAKEN TO DAKAR BY RDO MC ADAMS WHERE IT WILL BE TRANSLATED AND DISTRIBUTED.

4. IN CALL ON PAIGC SECRETARY-GENERAL PEREIRA, STOKES STRESSED IMPORTANCE OF AFRO-AMERICAN DIALOGUE TO WHICH HE IS PROCEEDING IN ADDIS AND SAID HE HOPED PAIGC WOULD CONTINUE TO PARTICIPATE. PEREIRA CONCURRED ON IMPORTANCE OF DIALOGUE AND SAID HIS ORGANIZATION WOULD BE REPRESENTED ALTHOUGH A LAST MINUTE CHANGE IN THEIR REPRESENTATIVE HAD TO BE MADE. PEREIRA, IN ANSWER TO STOKES'S QUESTION, SAID THERE HAD BEEN LITTLE MOVEMENT IN THE WAR IN GUINEA BISSAU IN LAST COUPLE OF YEARS. PORTUGUESE REMAIN ENTRENCHED IN FORTIFIED URBAN CENTERS WHILE PAIGC IS HOLDING ON TO COUNTRY-SIDE. WHILE PORTUGUESE FEEL TIME IS ON THEIR SIDE, THEY ARE BADLY MISTAKEN AND TIME FAVORS LIBERATION MOVEMENTS. NEVERTHELESS, PAIGC, PEREIRA SAID, HOPES THAT PORTUGAL WILL SOON REALIZE THAT IT WILL HAVE TO RECOGNIZE THE FUTURE LIES IN SELF-DETERMINATION AND WILL SIT DOWN AND DISCUSS TURNOVER OF SOVEREIGNTY TO LIBERATION ORGANIZATIONS.

5. IN CONVERSATION WITH GUINEANS, STOKES LIMITED REMARKS TO HIS INTEREST IN AFRICA AND HIS DESIRE FOR MORE INFORMATION IN ORDER TO UNDERSTAND HOW, FROM HIS VANTAGE POINT OF MEMBER OF APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE OF CONGRESS, HE COULD HELP MAKE MEANINGFUL CONTRIBUTION TO AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT. DURING HIS MEETING WITH PAIGC HE STRESSED HIS SUPPORT FOR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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INDEPENDANCE OF GUINEA BISSAU AND OFFERED TO BE OF ANY ASSISTANCE HE COULD IN THIS CONNECTION.
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Message Attributes

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